

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

In the Substitute Specification amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 16 as follows:

A cleansing in  $\text{HNO}_3$ , i.e. an etching in nitric acid 1:1, occurs in step 28 after the alkaline etching. Because, depending on the material composition, brown to black etching slurry forms on the surface after the alkaline etching, it is subsequently cleansed in nitric acid in order to prevent the formation of  $\text{AlO}_3$ . A flushing step 30 subsequently occurs in turn. An electrically conductive layer is applied in step 32 in a zincate etching coating. The oxide layer on the aluminum material is also neutralized with the aid of this conductive layer. A flushing step 34 subsequently occurs.